

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant notes that its PTO-1449 form has yet to be returned. Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement together with the filing of this application on 25 July 2001. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner expressly consider the references submitted with the PTO-1449 form and return the form as evidence of such due consideration.

Additionally, Applicant provides herewith a reference related to magnetic recording media to help clarify the interpretation of Han (US 6,383,574), which has been cited against this application. As explained in Applicant's Amendment filed 13 January 2004, Han does not relate to producing a magnetic medium but rather to forming a sensor element employed within magnetic data storage. (See Han, Col. 1, lines 6-11.) The sensor element and medium are separate elements of the storage device. This is readily explained in the provided reference, The Complete Handbook of Magnetic Recording. For Example, on page 493, Fig. 16.21, the reference shows an example of a magnetic storage assembly. The provided reference also describes processes of forming magnetosensitive (MR) elements such as in Fig. 9.27 on page 244, which can be employed in the read-write head shown in Fig. 7.7, page 166. The provided reference also shows a distribution of servo information on a magnetic recording disc on page 500, Fig. 16.31, which can be assessed by a read-write head.

As readily understood by the those skilled in the art, as evidenced by the provided reference, Han relates to the formation of an MR element for a read-write head, which is used in storage devices to read and write information onto magnetic media. The forgone comments should not be construed to limit the currently claimed subject matter. The claims do not require a read-write head or a particular pattern for the servo information. The reference is being provided to provide context to the invention.

As Applicant explained in its Amendment, the combined references do not suggest the formation of a distribution of low coercivity regions which function as servo information capable of being sensed by a read-write head. Because at least this element of independent claim 1 is missing from the combined references, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application are solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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